

In March, Mr. Charles W. Johnson gave a paper on the Fusidae and Fasciolariidae, illustrated by specimens from the Natural History Society's collection; and at the April meeting, Mr. Clench told of a recent collecting trip to the Everglades of Florida, in search of Liguus, and showed a superb set of these shells, including several new forms.

The May meeting was given over to a study of the Urocoptidae, with specimens from the Society's collection, and enlarged pictures of the shells, thrown on the screen by the radiopticon.

At each meeting through the season, Mr. S. N. F. Sanford, Conchological Recorder of the Club, showed a list gathered from current scientific magazines, of articles which might be of interest to those studying malacology or conchology.

The annual election of officers was held at the May meeting. Mr. Clench being re-elected President, Rev. Oliver P. Emerson Vice-president, Miss Theodora Willard Secretary-Treasurer, and Messrs. J. Henry Blake and Arthur F. Gray members of the Executive Committee. The Annual Field Meeting was held June 1st at Coffin's Beach near Annisquam, under the leadership of Mr. F. N. Balch. An enjoyable time was had and a number of interesting shells obtained.

THEODORA WILLARD, *Secretary.*

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#### CONCHOLOGICAL CLUB OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

As the Conchological Club of Southern California—like a great many others—officially closes its year with the June meeting this seems an excellent time to send in a brief report of our doings.

We now have thirty-two active and fifteen corresponding and honorary members, and for the past year have maintained an average attendance of eleven, the difference being partly due to the fact that several of our members belong to a general nature club which meets the same evening and

in part to the distance which many of the members must come. Two of our members have passed on during this year—C. E. White, repeatedly President of the Club, and owner of one of the best private collections on the Pacific Coast, and Mrs. Ellen Golisch, widow of W. H. Golisch, whose collection is now at the Calif. Inst. of Technology. Both had been members for years and are greatly missed.

We meet the 2nd Tuesday evening of every month—summer included—in the Public Library Building of the City of Los Angeles, the meeting being announced on the Library bulletin board and open to anyone interested, so any reader of the NAUTILUS who chances to be in Los Angeles on our meeting night is hereby specially invited to join the gathering.

Our program consists regularly of two papers—one technical or systematic—and one dealing more with collecting, or habitat notes, both usually illustrated with specimens, and followed or accompanied by general discussion. As none of the Eastern conchological leaders have come our way lately and every conchologist within 65 miles is a member, the Club has had no guest speaker this year. Better luck next time.

The conchological display in the Los Angeles County Museum renders it unnecessary for the Club to maintain a permanent display for public use, but small temporary displays are arranged in local or branch libraries whenever desired, this usually looked after by the nearest member. Talks to small study clubs, high school, science classes, etc., are handled in the same way—the Club serving mostly as a center through which connections can be made. So while this work is done there are no figures on the amount accomplished.

Our June meeting will be held at Long Beach, as Mr. H. N. Lowe, who is on the program for that meeting, invited the Club to come there to hear his talk on the shells he has gathered on his trips. We will have a basket lunch in the Park near by, and the business meeting, election of officers,

etc., afterwards. Some are going down in the afternoon that they may have time to view the shells as he has a fine collection. The secretary is Miss Clementine M. Gay.

(Mrs.) E. P. CHACE.

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#### NOTES AND NEWS

A FIELD METHOD OF PRESERVING.—The following method has been used for some time by Dr. R. T. Jackson<sup>1</sup> of the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy for killing and preservation of Echinoderms. I have used this method on two collecting trips for mollusks and have had excellent results.

Powdered corrosive sublimate ( $\text{HgCl}_2$ ), at a ratio of 2/1000 in water is used directly while in the field. This is approximately 2cc. per quart of water. Ordinary mason jars were found to be the best, though any glass or earthenware container that can be tightly sealed for shipping would work as well. Metal containers cannot be used owing to the corrosive action of the compound. A handy method is to have small vials containing measured amounts of the  $\text{HgCl}_2$ , e.g. 1cc. and 2cc. amounts for pint and quart jars. The jars of mollusks were filled to the top with water, the mercuric chloride added then sealed and shipped. All material so handled has arrived at the museum in excellent condition. The special feature of this method is the elimination in the field of large amounts of alcohol and other preserving material and extra containers, as jars were easily obtained practically everywhere during the trips. An added value is that the shells upon drying are impregnated with small amounts of  $\text{HgCl}_2$  which acts as a protection against museum pests.

Material collected in salt water can just be washed with freshwater before preserving. If material is to be shipped dried, allow 12-24 hours in the preserving fluid for the smaller species and 36-48 hours for the larger forms.

<sup>1</sup> 1927 Mem. Bos. Soc. Nat. Hist., vol. 8, p. 442.